

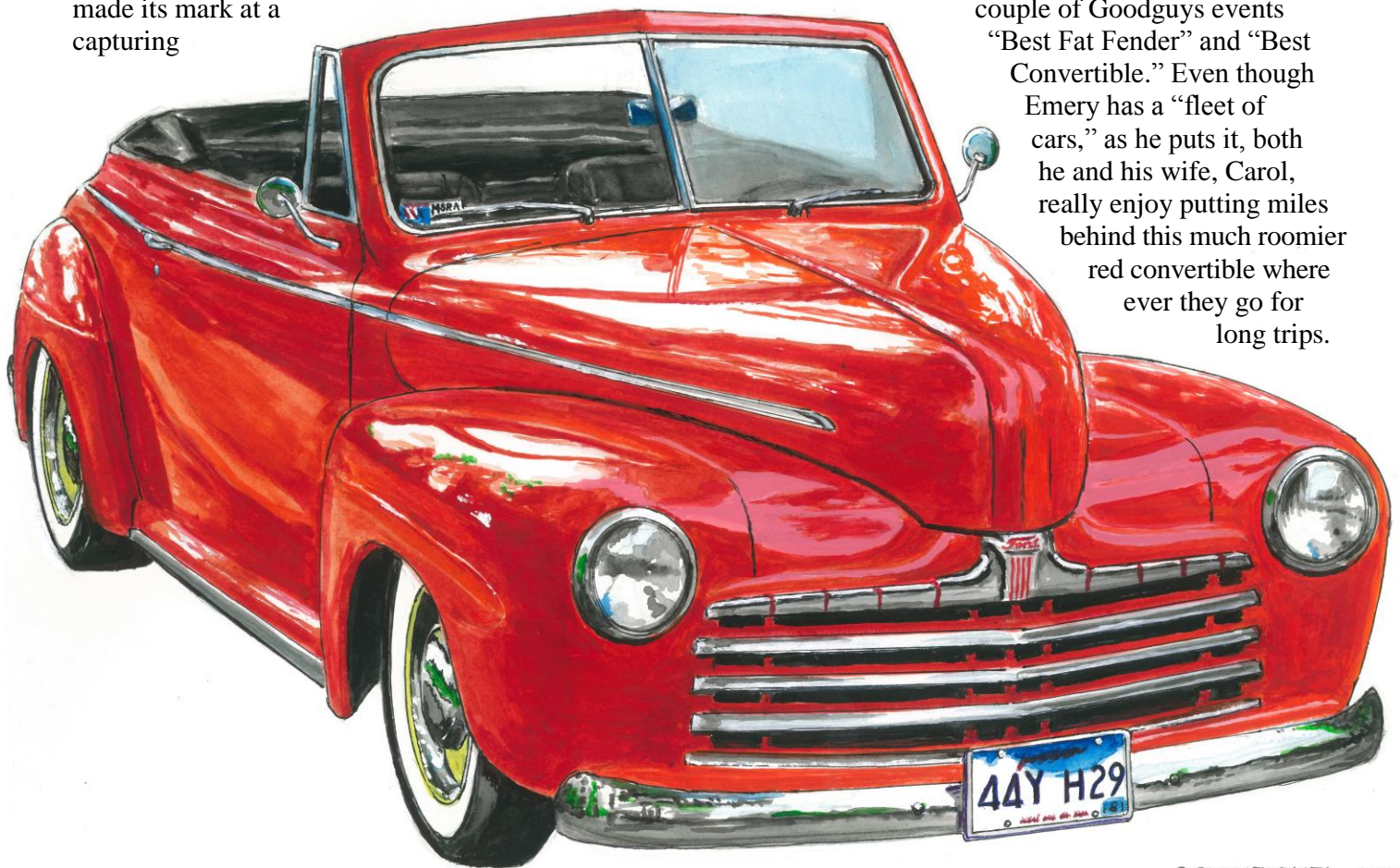
More Room

By Bob Schmeichel

Emery Lee is one of those guys who has been into street rods for over 30 years. After driving a 1933 Ford Cabriolet for a number of those years, along with getting a little older, he felt the need to have a car with a little more room inside.

Then in 2001, he remembered a 1946 Ford convertible that Jim Keyman had started building before he passed away and approached Barb Keyman about selling it. Barb didn't really know that much about the car, so she handed it off to her son, Joey, to help Emery figure out what was there in pieces. As they looked around in the garage, they noticed that it was Jim's intention to make a Mercury out of the '46 Ford by installing Mercury front sheet metal, which was the only difference in that year. The engine going into the car was the beginnings of a blown big block Chevy and a Corvette rear end that was confusing how it was going to work being already mounted in the frame. The main body itself was quite pristine sheet metal wise, so an offer was put out and accepted for all that they looked at.

After getting everything home, Emery almost immediately sold the blown big block Chevy while contacting Mike and Don Jones to put the car together for him. After much discussion with Mike about the frame, it was decided to scrap the present frame with the Corvette rear end in lieu of a new Roadster Shop Chassis complete with a Heidts front end and coil overs all around. The engine-trans combination came in the form of a newer LS-1 Chevy with a 4L60 overdrive model. Mike Jones did most of the assembly of the entire car with all the newer options of power steering, power disc brakes, power windows along with a stereo and disc changer. Most of the chrome was replaced or trim polished to bring it back to better-than-new appearance to help the new, red exterior pop. The whole process took about five years to complete, but once done the car made its mark at a capturing



couple of Goodguys events "Best Fat Fender" and "Best Convertible." Even though Emery has a "fleet of cars," as he puts it, both he and his wife, Carol, really enjoy putting miles behind this much roomier red convertible where ever they go for long trips.